

## Pakistan: Demographic and Ethnic Threats to Political Stability (U)

Pakistan has experienced exceptional demographic, social, and political turbulence in the 35 years since it received independence. The secession of the eastern wing to form Bangladesh in 1971 resulted in the loss of more than half of its citizens, and for the second time in less than 25 years, Pakistan had to organize itself. Ethnic and linguistic differences have long divided the people of the region, periodically erupted into political violence, and made the building of a sense of national identity at times appear impossible. Major refugee migrations in 1947, 1971, and most recently since 1979 have had lasting social and political effects. The continuing labor migration to the Middle East, involving millions of workers since the mid-1970s, has already affected the economy and may accelerate social change in the future as increasing numbers of relatively prosperous workers return. (U)

Table 1  
Total Urban and Selected  
City Populations, 1982\*

Thousands persons  
(except where noted)

Total urban areas*	24,778
Urban population as percent of total	27.1
12 largest cities	
Karachi city	5,333
Lahore city	3,827
Federated municipal and corporate areas	1,129
Rawalpindi/Islamabad	1,037
Peshawar city	(832)
Islamabad	(225)
Hyderabad city	817
Multan city	737
Gujranwala municipal and corporate areas	643
Punjab city	604
Sialkot city	309
Faisalabad city	308
Quetta city	106

\* Prepared from 1981 census data.

Figures in U.S. dollars.

an increase of Pakistan's 92 million population by nearly 3 million persons yearly during the 1980s, reaching a total population of 115 million by 1990 and 130 million by 2000. (U)

We expect the current annual 2.8-percent rate of population growth, a product of high fertility and low mortality, to drop only slightly through the rest of the century. Demographic evidence shows no marked change in fertility since the early 1960s; women have an average of seven children. We believe the government's failure to design family planning programs acceptable to Pakistani couples has contributed to some continuing high fertility. As a result, the

**Table 2**

**Estimated Population by Province, 1982\***

	Population (millions)	Percent
<b>Pakistan</b>	92 <sup>a</sup>	100
Punjab	32	37
Sind	21	23
North-West Frontier Province	14	15
Baluchistan	5	5

\* Projected from 1981 census data.

This table is Unclassified.

#### **The Afghan Refugees**

We expect the Afghan refugees will present a problem of increasing complexity.

The US Census Bureau estimates that there are 2.5 million refugees as of mid-1982, based on the number of refugees

registered by the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Refugees between 1979 and the end of 1981,  
estimated arrival of 25,000 during 1982, and esti-  
mated births and deaths occurring in the refugee  
population. The United Nations projects that the  
refugee population will reach 2.7 million by 1985 and  
3.2 million by 1990, assuming that no additional  
refugees will arrive or be repatriated after 1982. The  
NWFP, including non-Pakistani areas, which currently  
hosts about 80 percent of the refugees, is fast  
approaching the saturation point in terms of suitable  
land available for settlement, according to Western  
and Pakistani observers. As a result, some camps may  
have to be moved to other areas, away from Pakistan  
border areas.

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